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THESES - VOL. 25.

MANIA A PATU

Observations
on
Mania a potu.

by

J. M. Sloughton -

admitted March 9th 1821





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The following is a list of the
names of the persons who have
been admitted to the
membership of the
Society since the last
annual meeting. The names
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The faculty by which man is elevated above the creations around him is intellect. By this he is qualified for the investigation, defence and diffusion of truth, and for those pure and rational pleasures which beguile the sorrows and augment the pleasures of his transient existence. To cherish and strengthen his mental powers and direct them to the noblest pursuits is his indispensable duty. Against whatever may tend to diminish and degrade them he ought sedulously to guard, and more especially against whatever may conduce to confound, invert and obliterate all that is dear and dignified in his species.

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The causes which induce that pitiable condition, denominated Mania, are numerous. They have often been traced, and are sufficiently known. One of these, less frequently referred to, but not less injurious than the rest, it is the design of the following pages to exhibit.

Drunkenness is an evil of frequent occurrence - The many diseases to which the inebriate is liable form a considerable part of the train of misfortunes following the practice of the vice. It is to this it is to be ascribed a disease than which, none is more formidable in its nature, or in its consequences more terrible: Infer to Mania a potu.

I have called the subsequent pages observations - and what I here offer has been the result of personal observation.

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We have no very good histories of this disease. It is presumed to be cerebral but the immoderate use of ardent spirits - Perhaps the reason why European writers have so much neglected this disease, may be, that in England, where small liquors are generally used, and in the South of the Continent, where each province drinks its own *Vin du pays*, this disease is but little known. It is true that Holland, Germany, Westphalia and other Northern nations are troubled with this disease - From their Physicians we have had valuable tracts, abounding in rich practical precepts. It is to be regretted that, in our own country, but little attention has been paid to the subject. Some important papers have been given to the public, but yet much remains to be investigated.

The name Mania a Potu expresses but partially the cause of the

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disorder. Mania a Simulitia has been
considered more appropriate on account
of its precision. In Germany they call it
Mania Tremens from the tremors which gen-
erally accompany, or rather precede the attack
of derangement.

The Cause of Mania a Potu
is but one, and the same: the immoderate
and continued use of ardent spirits.

The Seat of Mania a Potu
I believe to be the Stomach. This viscus in
inebriates is generally affected. After
death the Stomachs of Drunkards have
been seen - Sometimes inflamed - Sometimes
with thickened coats - Sometimes contracted
into a small pouch*. In fact the Stomach
of every Drunkard presents, after death some
vestiges of disorder. In the dissection under
consideration, defective, so far as I have seen,
pretend to us, the inflamed Stomach - Now,

*Vide Black's Reports pp. 97.

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we know that delirium is a frequent symptom of common Scurvy, and in this case every one attributes the mental aberration to the very intimate and powerful sympathy subsisting between the stomach and the brain - why then should it be thought improbable that the dilated stomach in Menstruation should produce insanity, since menstruation shows no disorganization of the brain?

Besides, of late it has been observed, and I have often seen it, that the exhibition of an emetic frequently brings away from the stomach a very peculiar fluid. It is thick,ropy and viscid, of about the consistence of boiled tar. Its colour is generally a light brown - sometimes, indeed it exhibits an entire blackness. I know not whether this fluid is or is not the result of inflammation... But the fact appears unquestionable that if you can procure a

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free discharge of this fluid, your patient
will most probably recover. This pe-
-culiar fluid was first pointed out to me
by a Gentleman of the Almshouse and
since then I have repeatedly observed it.
a Physician of respectable standing in this
City assured me that he had often met
with it in his practice - Each gentleman
in the Almshouse has been convinced of
its existence, and of the importance of
freeing the Stomach from it. For these
reasons I think Mania à Potu is a gastric
Disease.

Symptoms.

After a severe turn of hard
drinking, when the exhilarating effects of the
Stimulus have gone off, the patient complains
of nausea - slight headache - chills, not reg-
ular rigors, but a sensation similar to that
produced by cold Water poured down the

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back. These having continued for a day or two, a gradual increase of them takes place, till at length a slight confusion of ideas is perceived. With this the patient has no appetite is extremely restless and cannot sleep. About this time tremors are very commonly visible, not amounting, however, to subultus tendens. After a longer or shorter interval, according to the peculiar circumstances of the case, the mania shows itself. Now the symptoms are a pulse, full, soft or gaseous, quick, and not very frequent, seldom exceeding ninety pulsations in a minute. The skin is natural both in moisture and temperature. The eye is left mild and rolling than in common mania. The tongue is moist and covered with a thin white fur, sometimes tinged with brown towards the root. The bowels are almost always constipated. No desire is felt for food. The thirst is considerable, particularly for cold water.

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The behaviour of the patient to-
wards his keepers is mild and docile -
He shows attachment to his Medical attendant
and is quite willing to receive any medicine from
his hands - It is a very common thing on entering
his apartment, to find him propping up the table
and importuning your assistance to prevent its
falling - He frequently changes the position of
his bed - and is continually endeavouring
to pick up money and other articles which he
supposes he scattered over the floor. He talks
incessantly - seldom sleeps and is frequently in
fear of some one from without. The mania
produced in this disease is more brilliant
and exhibits more lively efforts of the fancy
than common mental aberration.

This train of symptoms when
left to nature is frequently relieved by spon-
-taneous vomiting. The vomiting however gene-
-rally precedes a Typhoid state, from

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which, it is scarcely possible, even by the most powerful stimuli, to arouse the patient. I have seen the disease terminate in convulsion and sometimes in Apoplexy.

Appearances on Dissection

The Brain, in a majority of cases is found perfectly free from all appearance of inflammation or effusion. In a few instances I have seen some slight effusion of the Serous Rinds. The Stomach is inflamed to a very considerable degree, and of this inflammation, the bowels and peritoneum sometimes participate. The other viscera are generally free from disease. When the patient dies in convulsions an engorged state of the cerebral vessels is perceptible.

Treatment

For a long time Opium has been considered as a most certain remedy. Given either alone, in small and repeated

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doses, or in combination with Camphor
it has succeeded so well as to establish
the confidence of the majority of Medical
Men. Indeed until a short time ago
it was the only remedy— Of this practice
I am not able to speak confidently from per-
-sonal observation. I know that many
useful and eminent practitioners are so
well pleased with it as to be unwilling that
it should be relinquished. It is the treat-
-ment recommended from the Practical
Chair of my Alma Mater. This treatment
must have great merit or it could not be
so strongly supported.

Whilst a Junior Student in
the Arms House my senior used the same
plan of treatment. The great success
which followed induced me to continue
the practice. Indeed excepting in one or
two cases, I have followed it altogether.

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Emeline Reporting

The mode of treating this disease by Emetics was first recommended by Doctor Joseph Klapp. The reasons inducing him to pursue this plan are laid down in a paper*, which some few years ago, he presented to the profession. It is deemed unnecessary here to detail them.

The success which has attended the course laid down by this very ingenious Physician* has been signal - of Eighty two cases admitted into the Philadelphia Almshouse during the last two years Sixty four have been cured by this mode of treatment - of the remainder Seventeen have died and one had been removed - Many of those who did never had an Emetic administered. They consisted chiefly of persons who had been sick many days. Most of them were brought into the House in the Typhoid Stage; and some were actu-

* *Medical Repository* Vol VII.

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ally admitted in articulo mortis, that
they might find a coffin and a grave at
the Public Expense.

This is a much more economical
practice than the opiate one. Gallons of
Alcohol and ounces of opium are annu-
ally saved in this benevolent Institution
by following this plan.

This method of treating Maria
a patient is not confined to our city. By a
late number of the New England Medical
Journal, it appears to be spreading through
that section of our country. Dr. Hutchinson
of Wrentham had lately written a treatise on
this disease, in which he strongly recommends
the Emetic plan, and gives the credit due
to its scientific author.

When a patient is in the trou-
bling stage of the disease, a slight Emetic
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Some diluent, will most generally remove it. To settle and comfort the Stomach some bitter infusion may be given with advantage. The Emetic will, generally prevent the approach of Mania. Should, however, mania come on, the instant it supervenes, all trembling ceases. I have very rarely seen the tremors continue through the furious stage.

When the Mania is fully established the proper time is come to exhibit Emetics. It had been said that very large doses of the Emetic must be given - Indeed vj. or viij. grs. of Tart. Ant. may be given without producing even nausea. But if you combine a few grains of Ipecacuanha with the antimony vomiting will easily be produced.

R Pulver. Ipecacuanhae vj.

Tartari Antimoni grs. ij.

Mix - is the formula generally given in the *Hand Book* and I have

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very rarely seen it fail. Some diluent drink
should be given to the patient during its
operation - Difficulty will be found in
making the patient drink freely - but if
constant and persevering efforts be made you
can prevail on him to drink great quan-
-tities. These endeavours should be made
by the Medical attendants and not left
to the nurse.

After the vomiting ceases, the
patient falls into a peaceful sleep and awakes
refreshed and composed -

I have repeatedly seen a single
Emetic remove the Maniacal Symptoms. Two
Emetics are generally necessary. If these do not suc-
-ceed a third should be given and blisters ap-
plied to the legs. Should these fail another
may be administered and the back of the neck
blistered. It is seldom any mania remains
after following this course.

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Between the times the patients
will be much comforted by some aroma-
tic seltzer. A decoction of *Serpentaria*
orange peel and quassia answers very well.
Small quantities of good old Port agree
well with the Stomach - The Food should
be light and nourishing - meats ought
carefully to be avoided. Broths, Rice and
Milk - Muck and Molasses suit the case
very well and of these the patients will
eat heartily.

One of the most unpleasant
and troublesome symptoms with which we have
to contend is Vigilance - To relieve this a
jerggr. pill of opium may be given at night.
This will answer most generally - In some
cases however it fails and in others owing
to peculiarities of Constitution its use is con-
traindicated - In these cases we have to look for
some other remedy.

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I have used the Pela aranea under these circumstances, in doses of gr. x. at night. My experience with this article is inconclusive. But I have often been assured by one of the Physicians of the Almshouse, by whom it was pretty extensively used, that he had had good reason to be satisfied with its anodyne effects. about gr. x of this article possessed as much composing power as iij. or grs. ij of opium. Enquiries on this subject ought to be attended. I have no doubt of its being found a valuable Medicine.

I have now to speak of a remedy from which I have seen the most happy consequences result. I allude to the Virtue of Stops. Its use in intemperate persons as an anodyne I believe we are indebted to Dr. Sydenham. In these cases it is decidedly the most important article with which I am acquainted. It soothes the watchful maniac into the

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Sweetest slumbers - It prevents those unpleasant
dreams of which he so grievously complains.
In the morning he awakes composed, collec-
-ted, and happy - no idiotic rascals, no
As exhibition. It is given in doses of ʒj or ʒij
just before the patients bed time -

Though the patients' bowels are
generally in a constipated state, it is not
proper to commence with purging - From obser-
-vation I am led to suspect that no class of
patients bear purging so poorly - The combi-
-nation of Ipecac. and Tart. ant. is generally
sufficient to induce a stultic state of the bowels.

The pulse, at first voluminous
might seem to a superficial observer to require
reduction by the lancet - On more careful ex-
-amination you will find it obliterated by slight
pressure - Under these circumstances bloodletting
is dangerous - Very frequently the use of ʒj or ʒij of
Blood will induce syncope -

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After the disease has run on for some time, if unafflicted by art, spontaneous something comes on. Sometimes this procures relief from all the symptoms of mania, but generally is the precursor of the Typhoid Stage - a state which sometimes occurs after the disease has been properly treated - The remedies employed in the sinking stage of all diseases are here proper - such as, the Volatile alkali with wine whey - Brandy - opium, camphor - Spirits of Turpentine - must &c. At the same time external Stimuli are not to be neglected - Heat Epispastics Rubefactions may be used extending indeed the most active remedies must be liberally exhibited.

In the management of this disease much attention and care is absolutely required. The violence of the affection is very great and the changes which take place occur rapidly. I know of no indisposition re-

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quiring more watchful attendance. The Physician should be present at the giving of the emetics, watch their operation and assist the Stomach in clearing itself of its contents. We should inspect carefully the discharged. In a word, treat his patient as frequently as is compatible with his other duties.

To these unfortunate creatures the most mild and tender treatment is necessary. Harsh language is never needed. They are generally persons who have seen brighter days. Reduced by the reverse of fortune and overwhelmed by the flood of adversity, they have tried to find comfort from the intoxicating cup. From the oblivion of inebriation they have awakened only to find more oppressive trials and to experience keen anguish. A man's heart must have been deeply wrong before from the eminence of respectability he sinks in to an inda-

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silent of a Poor House.

Your donations are amply repaid
by the gratitude they express towards you.